

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

JULIUS JOHNSON,
Plaintiff,

v.

ONIKA TANYA MIRAJ, et al.,
Defendant.

Case No. CV 23-5061 PA (AFMx)

STANDING ORDER

**READ THIS ORDER CAREFULLY. IT CONTROLS THE CASE
AND DIFFERS IN SOME RESPECTS FROM THE LOCAL RULES.**

This action has been assigned to the calendar of Judge Percy Anderson. Both the Court and the attorneys bear responsibility for the progress of litigation in the Federal Courts. To secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action, Fed. R. Civ. P. 1, all counsel are ordered to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Central District of California.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

1. **Service of the Complaint:** The Plaintiff shall promptly serve the Complaint in accordance with Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and file the proofs of service pursuant to Local Rule 5-3.1.

1 2. **Presence of Lead Counsel:** Lead trial counsel shall attend all proceedings
2 before this Court, including all status and settlement conferences.

3 3. **Discovery:**

4 (a) All discovery matters have been referred to a United States Magistrate
5 Judge, who will hear all discovery disputes. (The Magistrate Judge's initials follow the
6 Judge's initials next to the case number.) All discovery documents must include the words
7 "DISCOVERY MATTER" in the caption to ensure proper routing. Counsel are directed to
8 contact the Magistrate Judge's Courtroom Deputy Clerk to schedule matters for hearing.
9 Please do not deliver courtesy copies of these documents to this Court.

10 The decision of the Magistrate Judge shall be final, subject to modification by the
11 District Court only where it has been shown that the Magistrate Judge's Order is clearly
12 erroneous or contrary to law. Any party may file and serve a motion for review and
13 reconsideration before this Court. The moving party must file and serve the motion within
14 ten (10) days of service of a written ruling or within ten (10) days of an oral ruling that the
15 Magistrate Judge states will not be followed by a written ruling. The motion must specify
16 which portions of the ruling are clearly erroneous or contrary to law and support the
17 contention with points and authorities. Counsel shall deliver a conformed copy of the
18 moving papers and responses to the Magistrate Judge's clerk at the time of filing.

19 (b) Unless there is a likelihood that upon motion by a party the Court
20 would order that any or all discovery is premature, it is advisable for counsel to begin to
21 conduct discovery actively before the Scheduling Conference. At the very least, the parties
22 shall comply fully with the letter and spirit of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) and thereby obtain and
23 produce most of what would be produced in the early stage of discovery, because at the
24 Scheduling Conference the Court will impose tight deadlines to complete discovery.

25 (c) If expert witnesses are to be called at trial, the parties shall designate
26 experts to be called at trial and provide reports required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), not
27 later than eight weeks prior to the discovery cutoff date. Rebuttal expert witnesses shall be
28

1 designated and reports provided as required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(2)(B), not later than
2 five weeks prior to the discovery cutoff date. Failure to timely comply with this deadline
3 may result in the expert being excluded at trial as a witness.

4 **4. Electronic Filing:**

5 Pursuant to Local Rule 5-4, the United States District Court for the Central District of
6 California requires electronic filing of documents. Information about the Court's Electronic
7 Case Filing system ("ECF") is available in Local Rule 5-4 and on the Court's website at
8 www.cacd.uscourts.gov/cmecf.

9 Pursuant to Local Rule 5-4.3.1, documents filed electronically must be submitted in
10 Portable Document Format ("PDF"), created using word-processing software, and published
11 to PDF from the original word-processing file to permit the electronic version of the
12 document to be searched. Other than signature pages, PDF IMAGES CREATED BY
13 SCANNING PAPER DOCUMENTS ARE PROHIBITED. Violation of Local Rule 5-4.3.1
14 may result in the striking of the offending document and the imposition of monetary or other
15 sanctions.

16 All manually filed documents (those documents excused from the electronic filing
17 requirements by Local Rule 5-4.2) shall be served on the person as otherwise required by the
18 Federal Rules of Civil Procedure or the Local Rules.

19 **5. Mandatory Chambers Copies:**

20 Notwithstanding any contrary provision in the Local Rules, and unless otherwise
21 ordered by the Court, Judge Anderson does not require parties to provide Mandatory
22 Chambers Copies of documents filed through the Court's CM/ECF System. **No party shall**
23 **deliver a Mandatory Chambers Copy to Judge Anderson unless specifically ordered to**
24 **do so.** If the Court orders the delivery of a Mandatory Chambers Copy, the Mandatory
25 Chambers Copy shall be delivered by either: (1) delivering it to Judge Anderson's mailbox
26 located adjacent to the Clerk's Office on the fourth floor of the United States Courthouse,
27 350 West 1st Street, Los Angeles, California, no later than 12:00 noon on the business day
28 following the filing of the document; or (2) sending it by guaranteed overnight delivery to

the United States Courthouse, 350 West 1st Street, Suite 4311, Los Angeles, California 90012-4565. Should the Mandatory Chambers Copy be sent by overnight delivery, the sender shall notify the delivery service that the signature of the recipient is not required.

6. Motions:^{1/}

(a) Time for Filing and Hearing Motions: Motions shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 7. This Court hears motions on **Mondays, commencing at 1:30 p.m. No supplemental brief shall be filed without prior leave of Court.** No motion shall be noticed for hearing for more than thirty-five (35) days after service of the motion unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Many motions to dismiss or to strike could be avoided if the parties confer in good faith (as they are required to do under L.R. 7-3), especially for perceived defects in a complaint, answer or counterclaim which could be corrected by amendment. See Chang v. Chen, 80 F.3d 1293, 1296 (9th Cir. 1996) (where a motion to dismiss is granted, a district court should provide leave to amend unless it is clear that the complaint could not be saved by *any* amendment). Moreover, a party has the right to amend his complaint “once as a matter of course at any time before a responsive pleading is served.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 15(a). A 12(b)(6) motion is not a responsive pleading and therefore plaintiff might have a right to amend. See Nolen v. Fitzharris, 450 F.2d 958, 958-59 (9th Cir. 1971); St. Michael’s Convalescent Hospital v. California, 643 F.2d 1369, 1374 (9th Cir. 1981). And even where a party has amended his Complaint once or a responsive pleading has been served, the Federal Rules provide that leave to amend should be “freely given when justice so requires.” F.R.Civ.P. 15(a). The Ninth Circuit requires that this policy favoring amendment be applied with “extreme liberality.” Morongo Band of Mission Indians v. Rose, 893 F.2d 1074, 1079

^{1/} Among other things, Local Rule 7-3 requires counsel to engage in a pre-filing conference “to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance of the contemplated motion and any potential resolution.” Counsel should discuss the issues sufficiently so that if a motion is still necessary, the briefing may be directed to those substantive issues requiring resolution by the Court. Counsel should resolve minor procedural or other nonsubstantive matters during the conference.

1 (9th Cir. 1990). These principles require that counsel for the plaintiff should carefully
2 evaluate the defendant's contentions as to the deficiencies in the complaint and in many
3 instances, the moving party should agree to any amendment that would cure a curable
4 defect.

5 In the unlikely event that motions under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12 challenging pleadings are
6 filed after the Rule 16 Scheduling Conference, the moving party shall attach a copy of the
7 challenged pleading to the Memorandum of Points and Authorities in support of the motion.
8 The foregoing provisions apply as well to motions to dismiss a counterclaim, answer or
9 affirmative defense, which a plaintiff might file.

10 **(b) Length and Format of Motion Papers: Memoranda of Points and**
11 **Authorities in support of or in opposition to motions shall not exceed 25 pages. Replies**
12 **shall not exceed 12 pages.** Only in rare instances and for good cause shown will the Court
13 grant an application to extend these page limitations.

14 **Typeface shall comply with Local Rule 11-3.1.1. NOTE: If Times Roman font is**
15 **used, the size must be no less than 14; if Courier is used, the size must be no less than**
16 **12.** Footnotes shall be in typeface no more than one size smaller than text size and shall be
17 used sparingly.

18 Filings which do not conform to the Local Rules and this Order will not be
19 considered.

20 **(c) Citations to Case Law:** Citations to case law **must** identify not only
21 the case being cited, but the specific page being referenced. Certain kinds of authority are
22 considered more useful – or authoritative – than others. If more than one authority is cited
23 in support of a proposition, these supporting authorities are to be listed such that the more
24 authoritative ones appear first.

25 **(d) Citations to Other Sources:** Counsel are reminded that the basic
26 purpose of a legal citation is to allow the reader to locate a cited source accurately and
27 efficiently. Accordingly, statutory references should identify, with specificity, which
28 sections and subsections are being referenced (e.g., Jurisdiction over this cause of action

1 may appropriately be found in 47 U.S.C. § 33, which grants the district courts jurisdiction
 2 over all offenses of the Submarine Cable Act, whether the infraction occurred within the
 3 territorial waters of the United States or on board a vessel of the United States outside said
 4 waters). Statutory references which do not indicate specifically which section and
 5 subsection are being referred to (e.g., Plaintiffs allege conduct in violation of the Federal
 6 Electronic Communication Privacy Act, 18 U.S.C. § 2511, et seq.) are to be **avoided**.
 7 Citations to treatises, manuals, and other materials should similarly include the volume and
 8 the section being referenced.

9 **7. Proposed Orders:** Each party filing or opposing a motion or seeking the
 10 determination of any matter shall serve and lodge a Proposed Order setting forth the relief or
 11 action sought and a brief statement of the rationale for the decision with appropriate
 12 citations. If the Proposed Order exceeds two pages, the proposing party shall also submit a
 13 copy of the Proposed Order to the Court's ECF e-mail address, in WordPerfect format (X9
 14 or earlier versions) or Microsoft Word (Word 365 or earlier versions).

15 **8. Ex Parte Applications:** Counsel are reminded ex parte applications are solely
 16 for extraordinary relief. See Mission Power Engineering Co. v. Continental Casualty Co.,
 17 883 F. Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal. 1995). Applications which fail to conform with Local Rules 7-
 18 19 and 7-19.1, **including a statement of opposing counsel's position**, will not be
 19 considered. Any opposition must be filed not later than 24 hours after service. If counsel do
 20 not intend to oppose the ex parte application, counsel must inform the court clerk by
 21 telephone. The Court considers ex parte applications on the papers and usually does not set
 22 these matters for hearing. The Courtroom Deputy Clerk will notify counsel of the Court's
 23 ruling or a hearing date and time, if the Court determines a hearing is necessary. Absent
 24 leave of Court, the Court will not consider reply papers in support of an ex parte application.

25 **9. Under Seal Filings:** Parties shall make every effort to limit the number and
 26 volume of under seal filings. In most circumstances, parties should seek to file under seal
 27 only the specific portions of exhibits or documents for which there is a valid basis for filing
 28 under seal. Requests to file memoranda of points and authorities under seal are disfavored.

Pursuant to Local Rule 79-5.2.2, except in sealed civil cases, “no document may be filed under seal without prior approval by the Court.” When seeking the Court’s approval for an under seal filing, the submitting party shall comply with the procedures established in Local Rule 79-5.2.2(a). Because documents filed under seal are only visible on CM/ECF or Pacer to Court personnel and the party that filed the document, a party electronically filing a document under seal may not rely on the Court’s CM/ECF System to effect service as provided in Local Rule 5-3.2.1. Therefore, documents filed electronically under seal must be served in accordance with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5. Additionally, at the time of filing, the documents filed electronically under seal must be accompanied either by a Proof of Service in the form required by Local Rule 5-3.1.2 or a declaration explaining why service is not required.

The submission of documents for in camera review is governed by Local Rule 79-6.

10. Applications or Stipulations to Extend the Time to File any Required Document or to Continue any Pretrial or Trial Date: No stipulations extending scheduling requirements or modifying applicable rules are effective until and unless the Court approves them. Both applications and stipulations must be filed in advance of the date due and set forth:

(a) the existing due date or hearing date as well as the discovery cutoff date, the last date for hearing motions, the pre-trial conference date and the trial date;

(b) specific, concrete reasons supporting good cause for granting the extension. In this regard, a statement that an extension “will promote settlement” is insufficient. The requesting party or parties must indicate the status of ongoing negotiations: (i.e., have written proposals been exchanged? Is counsel in the process of reviewing a draft settlement agreement? Has a mediator been selected?);

(c) whether there have been prior requests for extensions, and whether these were granted or denied by the Court.

11. TROs and Injunctions: Parties seeking emergency or provisional relief shall comply with Fed. R. Civ. P. 65 and Local Rules 7-19 and 65. Absent extraordinary

1 circumstances, the Court will not rule on any application for such relief for at least 24 hours
2 after the party subject to the requested order has been served. The opposing party may file
3 opposing or responding papers in the interim.

4 **12. Cases Removed From State Court:** All documents filed in state court,
5 including documents appended to the complaint, answers and motions, must be refiled in
6 this Court as a supplement to the Notice of Removal, if not already included. See 28 U.S.C.
7 § 1447(a)(b). If the defendant has not yet responded, the answer or responsive pleading
8 filed in this Court must comply with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the
9 Local Rules of the Central District. If a motion was pending in state court before the case
10 was removed, it must be re-noticed in accordance with Local Rule 7.

11 **13. ERISA Cases:** Absent an agreed upon statement of facts, the court will not
12 hear motions for summary judgment, but will hear motions to determine the standard of
13 review and the scope of the administrative record. See Kearney v. Standard Ins. Co., 175
14 F.3d 1084 (9th Cir. 1999). There will be a court trial (usually confined to oral argument) on
15 the administrative record.

16 **14. Class Actions:** Consistent with Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 23's
17 requirement that the Court must determine at "an early practicable time" whether to certify
18 an action as a class action, for any action purporting to commence a class action, other than
19 an action subject to the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, P.L. 104-67, 15
20 U.S.C. § 77z-1 et seq., the Court orders that any Motion for Class Certification shall be filed
21 within 120 days after service of a pleading (or, if applicable, within 120 days after the filing
22 of a Notice of Removal), unless otherwise ordered by the Court. Failure to timely file a
23 Motion for Class Certification may result in the imposition of sanctions, which may include
24 the striking of the class allegations.

25 **15. Consent to Magistrate Judge:** The parties may consent to have a United
26 States Magistrate Judge preside over the entire case, including trial. The parties are free to
27 select from amongst all the magistrate judges available for this purpose, not just the
28

1 magistrate judge assigned to this case. (Please consult the court's website for the list of the
2 available magistrate judges.)

3 **16. Status of Fictitiously Named Defendants:** This Court intends to adhere to
4 the following procedures where a matter is removed to this Court on diversity grounds with
5 fictitiously named defendants referred to in the complaint. See 28 U.S.C. §§ 1441(a), 1447.

6 (a) Plaintiff is normally expected to ascertain the identity of and serve
7 any fictitiously named defendants within 90 days of the removal of the action to
8 this Court.

9 (b) If plaintiff believes (by reason of the necessity for discovery or
10 otherwise) that fictitiously named defendants cannot be fully identified within the 90-day
11 period, an ex parte application requesting permission to extend that period to effectuate
12 service may be filed with this Court. Such application shall state the reasons therefor, and
13 may be granted upon a showing of good cause. The ex parte application shall be served
14 upon all appearing parties, and shall state that appearing parties may comment within seven
15 (7) days of the filing of the ex parte application.

16 (c) If plaintiff desires to substitute a named defendant for one of the
17 fictitiously named parties, plaintiff first shall seek to obtain consent from counsel for the
18 previously-identified defendants (and counsel for the fictitiously named party, if that party
19 has separate counsel). If consent is withheld or denied, plaintiff may apply ex parte
20 requesting such amendment, with notice to all appearing parties. Each party shall have
21 seven calendar days to respond. The ex parte application and any response should comment
22 not only on the substitution of the named party for a fictitiously named defendant, but on the
23 question of whether the matter should thereafter be remanded to the Superior Court if
24 diversity of citizenship is destroyed by the addition of the new substituted party. See 28
25 U.S.C. § 1447(c)(d).

26 **17. Bankruptcy Appeals:** Counsel shall comply with the Notice Regarding
27 Appeal from Bankruptcy Court issued at the time the appeal is filed in the District Court.
28


1 The matter is considered submitted upon the filing of the appellant's reply brief. No oral
2 argument is held unless otherwise ordered by this Court.

3 **18. Communications with Chambers:** Counsel shall not attempt to contact the
4 Court or its chambers staff by telephone or by any other ex parte means, although counsel
5 may contact the Courtroom Deputy, at (213) 894-1795, with appropriate inquiries. To
6 facilitate communication with the Courtroom Deputy, counsel should list their facsimile
7 transmission numbers along with their telephone numbers and e-mail addresses on all
8 papers.

9 **19. Notice of this Order:** Counsel for plaintiff shall immediately serve this Order
10 on all parties, including any new parties to the action. If this case came to the Court by
11 noticed removal, defendant shall serve this Order on all other parties.

12 IT IS SO ORDERED.

13 Dated: June 28, 2023

14 
15 _____
16 Percy Anderson
17 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

18 revised 3/11/21
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28